value of iron; yet the workmen were dissatisfied, and there were many mutterings about a strike. The variation of wages in the mineral districts is very great. An average is struck every five or six years, at periods when wages are at the lowest; but it is so difficult to arrive at accurate conclusions, that we shall only give the highest rates. Colliers have earned from 3*l.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* per month, averaging about 1*l.* per week. Miners about 18*s.* per week. Furnace men at the blast furnaces, 20*s.* to 30*s.* Finers and pudlers, from 25*s.* to 35*s.* Ballers from 20*s.* to 45*s.*, averaging 30*s.* Rollers, from 25*s.* to, in a few cases, *five pounds*, averaging about 50*s.* per week. The average earnings are considerably reduced through the 'hill country' of Glamorgan and Monmouth by intemperance, which leads to much loss of time."

Miscellanea.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders by 21st inst. for the execution of the several works for the completion of the superstruction of the West Derby Lunatic Asylum, Sutton; by 29th, for repairing, widening, &c., the county-bridge at Yalding town, Kent; by 14th, for the erection of a station at Lichfield; by 23rd, for building a sewer of 180 yards and making six gully shoots, at Birmingham; and by 21st, for a supply of nearly 20 miles in length of cast-iron pipes and appendages, of various sizes, for the Derby water-works.

COMPETITIONS, &c.—A premium of 100 guineas, or the usual commission, is offered to the 'architect or artist' who shall offer, by 18th proximo, the best designs for a public cemetery at Leicester; any other design to be purchasable by the committee for not more than 20 guineas.——A premium of 10 guineas will be given for the most approved plan of a savings' bank at Newbury, to stand on an arcade, and to cost not more than 1,400*l.*—— Surveys, maps, and valuations for the parish of Tutbury are wanted; tenders to be lodged by 24th inst.

STATE OF THE BOROUGH SEWERS.—We have received a copy of the report of the Surveyors of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers, upon an inspection of sewers in the Surrey and Kent divisions, which, if all be true, shews a fearful state of things in that densely populated district. In many places the 'high levels' are mere open ditches running at the backs of the houses, the walls of which frequently form the sides of the ditch; while, not more than from 7 to 12 feet above, bed-room windows not only open right over the foul deposits, but themselves afford a common route of egress for the offal and refuse which are in constant course of being pitched into the 'high levels.' These, in other places, are actually covered by the cracked and open flooring of the rooms, through which the committee had no difficulty in espying the inmates from below. Innumerable privies, of the most sickening description, open directly into these ditches, and they constitute the main dust bins of the residents. As for the 'low levels,' into which the fluid contents of the 'high levels' are precipitated, it appears to be a fact that their falls are frequently from, in place of to, the outfall, so that they are more like elongated cesspools than sewers, and even where the fall is to the outfall, the inclinations appear to be of small amount, and the sewers are filled for many hours at high-tide with the 'back water' to a considerable distance from the outfall: at these times, of course, a constant deposit is choking up the outfall and the 'level.' And the worst of it is, that even though the 'low levels' had all good outfalls, scouring through the 'high levels' with a strong force of water, would undermine the houses and the ditches themselves; and besides, the accumulation of solid rubbish, ashes, &c., cannot be prevented unless the negligence and refusal of the dustmen to remove them be determinedly put a stop to. Pumping, as in cleansing cesspools, the officers think *might* be available, with a powerful apparatus, in the removal of the most offensive portion of the contents of the ditches into the low level, which otherwise they often do not reach at all. We wish to think that the surveyors have over-coloured their statement.

EXPLOSION AND DAMAGE IN REGENT'S PARK.—An extraordinary amount of injury to houses, windows, &c., occurred on Monday last, from an explosion at No. 60, Albany-street, originating, it is said, notwithstanding assertions to the contrary, in the mere leakage of a gas pipe for a short interval, after shutting the Berlin wool shop in which it took place. Mr. Loten, the brother of the occupier, and a Miss Bird, were blown through the parlour window, and another female was thrown to the opposite side of the street and killed, while the entire front of the premises was blown out, and for more than a quarter of a mile in each direction the effects of the shock are seriously exhibited.

THE MARTELLO TOWERS.—Referring to our mention of a Martello tower recently, a correspondent asks for some information concerning this class of structures. About 1804 Mr. Pitt formed the idea of putting the coast in a fit state to repel invasion. The chief object proposed was to prevent the landing of troops at any particular point. The forts not being liable to be attacked by infantry on the land side, it was only necessary to provide the most efficient means of sweeping the coast. The name as well as the form given to these forts is said to be suggested by one of a somewhat similar kind which stood in Martello Bay, Corsica, and which was taken by the British troops with great trouble and loss. The *Liverpool Albion* had recently the following particulars: — "The Martello Towers are all pretty much alike. They are circular, generally about 40 feet in diameter at the base, and the walls battez, or incline inwards to a diameter of about 30 feet at the top. Their height is about 30 feet. They are two stories high, the lower story being divided into chambers for stores, the upper into apartments for an officer and privates. A strong central pillar supports a bomb-proof roof. A high parapet screens the artillerymen. They are built of brick, the thickness of the walls varying from 5 to 12 feet, according to circumstances. The walls on the seaward side are always much thicker than towards the land. To support such an immense mass of brickwork the foundations had to be laid deep and wide, and they were so contrived as to include a reservoir for water. Generally these towers are close by the shore, but in some situations they are placed on a hill or point of land. In such positions they are surrounded by a deep moat faced with brick, and are entered by a swivel bridge. The doorway is always five or six feet from the ground, and where there is not a moat, the entrance is by a ladder that could be drawn up inside." Their ordinary distance apart is somewhat above a quarter of a mile.

BLIND PAINTERS.—A correspondent says: I send you the amounts of the various tenders for painting the outsides of forty-two houses in Royal Crescent, with the enclosure to pleasure-gardens. The difference for so simple a job is so great that it deserves a place in your paper:

Cooper	£386	0	0
Sloper	350	0	0
Cutbush	288	0	0
Woolley (accepted) ..	258	9	0

BLIND BUILDERS.—The following is a list of tenders delivered for repairs and painting at St. George's Church, in the parish of St. George, Southwark, to be done under Mr. H. Jarvis, architect:—

Burtwell	£925	0	0
Ward	801	0	0
Wilkinson	774	0	0
Rentmore	695	0	0
Hacker	610	0	0
Tombs	583	0	0
Harlands	567	0	0
Knight	555	0	0
Ellison (accepted)	499	0	0

A subscriber requests our insertion of the following estimates, delivered the 3rd August, to the churchwardens of the parish of St. Bartholomew Hyde, for certain repairs to their church:—

Gover and Son	£134	7	0
Brown	120	0	0
Fielder	119	10	0
Macklin	85	0	0
Filer	67	16	0!

A CHINESE FARM HOUSE.—The farm, however small, is not so much the estate of an individual proprietor as the home of a family or seat of a clan, many generations of which, under one acknowledged head or patriarch, are often congregated in the same dwelling. As the farm-houses in general differ but little from each other, except in size, I will endeavour to give the reader a description of one. In a small island, formed by a moat for the supply of water and the rearing of ducks and geese, well sheltered by bamboos and other trees, and nearly hid from view, stands the house, consisting of one floor only, built, when possible, of stone, in other cases of brick (of so superior a quality as to become an article of commerce with this country, and to find its way to Liverpool), or of wood. In the centre is a large hall, called the "Hall of Ancestors," common to all the family. In it are arranged the household gods (among which are invariably the Taouist divinities presiding over hearing and sight) and relics, such as an ancestral picture, in the most conspicuous part of the wall, on each side of which is an aphorism of Confucius, and in front a table bearing incense burners and fruits, as offerings, and ornamental porcelain vases, &c. The hall also serves for a drying-room for their seeds, and a depository for the smaller implements of husbandry. It is the scene of their entertainments, many of their festivals, and the adoration of the gods, but never used for culinary purposes. This forms the nucleus of the building: around it are the dwelling rooms of the different divisions of the tribe; and as often as a marriage takes place, an apartment is added for the newly-wedded couple, and, in time, the whole presents rather the appearance of a village than a single dwelling-house. — *Lieutenant Forbes' Five Years in China.*

KNOWLEDGE FOR THE WORKING MAN.—Mr. Editor: Allow me, as a friend to the working men of this country, to call your attention to the result of your and other exertions in forwarding their scientific education, as exhibited at the *Pear-street Working Man's Institution* on Monday last. This establishment was founded by Lord Ashley a few weeks back, and now numbers about 100 members. Their first lecture was delivered on Monday to a crowded audience, by Professor Partington, and it was mainly devoted to the phenomena of Electro-magnetism in connection with the new telegraphic arrangements. The lecture-room was filled by the members and their friends, who evidently listened with the deepest attention; and, at the close, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed. I trust, Mr. Editor, that you will be pleased with the result of an experiment which has been intended especially for the benefit of the humblest of the working classes, who pay but a few pence per month for all the advantages of the institution, and your insertion of this announcement may have the effect of insuring the establishment of similar institutions in other crowded neighbourhoods, where the inhabitants are too poor to become members of the regular literary and scientific establishments.—AN ARTISAN.

THE UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.—Capt. Siborne's fine model of Waterloo having, by arrangement, been presented to this institution, a new room is to be formed, we understand, in the upper part of the building, in Whitehall-yard, and will be appropriated exclusively to that and other memorials of the event. A lecture theatre is also in contemplation. The number of members is more than 4,000, but this is scarcely sufficient to carry out the views of the council. The institution has well established its claim for even more extended support.

THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONGRESS will commence at Worcester on Monday, the 14th, and terminate on Saturday. Tuesday will be appropriated mainly to the cathedral. On Wednesday there will be an excursion to Sudeley Castle, and on Thursday to Malvern, Pershore, and Eversham. A large number of tickets have already been taken, and everything promises a pleasant and profitable meeting.

NEW CHURCHES.—A Bill, prepared and brought in by Sir G. Grey and Mr. C. Lewis, M.P., continues the Royal Commission for building new churches until the 20th day of July, 1853.

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